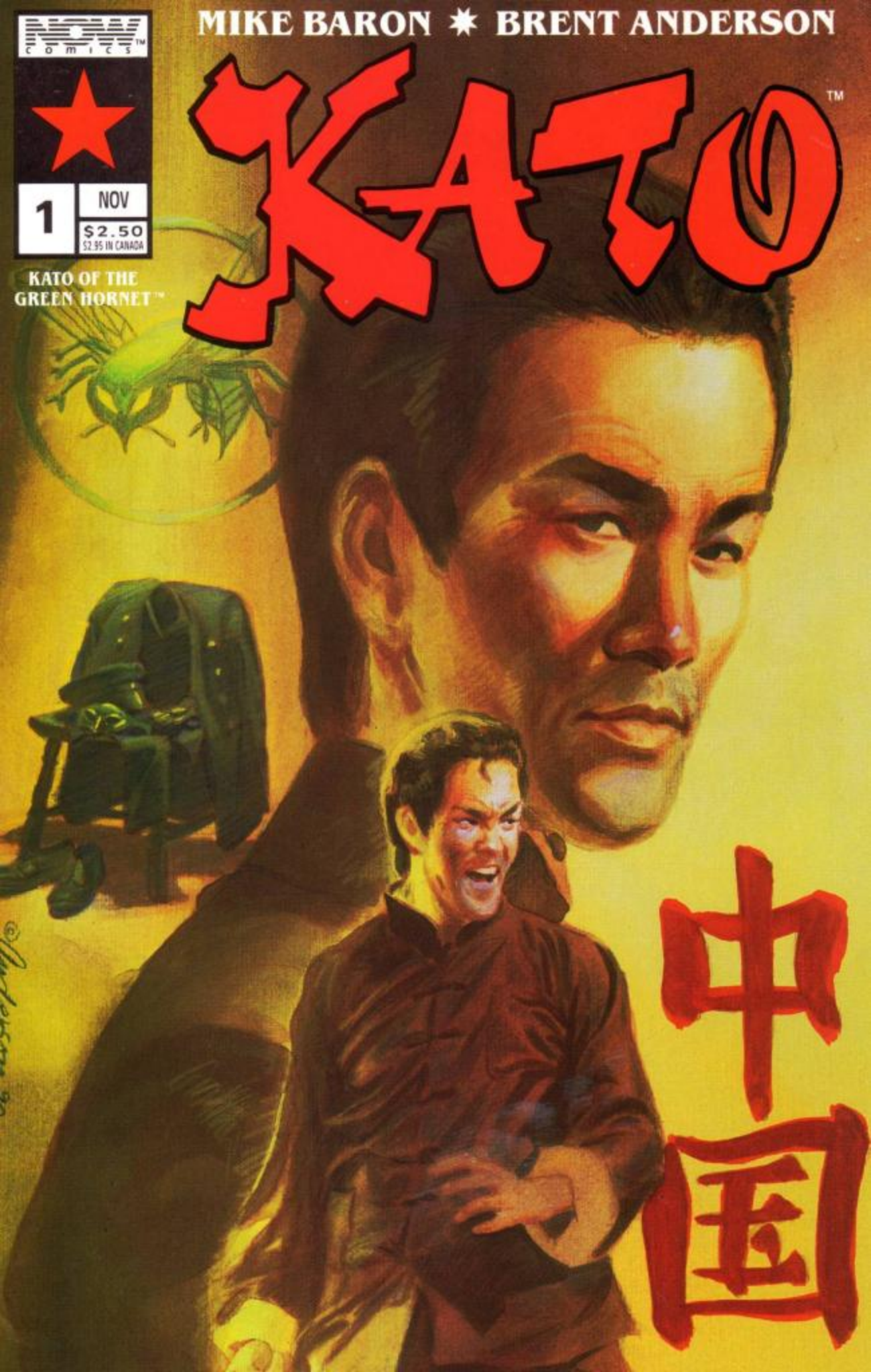
NOW COMICS
MIKE BARON ✸ BRENT ANDERSON
KATO™
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$2.50
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KATO OF THE GREEN HORNET™
中国

REID COM
THUMP THUMP
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CHOK
FWOK
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WHIRR
UNI-FAX
HONORABLE NEPHEW:
IT HAS BEEN TOO LONG SINCE WE WERE TOGETHER. I APOLOGIZE FOR INTRUDING ON YOUR LIFE, BUT I BRING JOYOUS TIDINGS.
WE HAVE PLANNED A GREAT REUNION AND FEAST AT OUR ANCESTRAL HOME. OUR LONG-LOST COUSINS ARE ALREADY ARRIVING--ONLY INCLEMENT WEATHER PREVENTS THEM FROM REACHING THE FRONT DOOR. YOUR ATTENDANCE WOULD BRING US MUCH JOY.
SINCERELY,
SIFU UNCLE HO

BRITT--I HAVE TO GO TO CHINA. I MAY BE GONE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.
WHAT'S UP?
THE BEIJING REGIME IS FINALLY MOVING TO DESTROY THE SHAOLIN TEMPLE.
MY OLD SCHOOL IS IN DANGER OF ANNIHILATION.
I'LL GO WITH YOU.
NO, FRIEND BRITT. YOU WOULDN'T LAST AN HOUR INSIDE CHINA... AND NO OUTSIDERS ARE PERMITTED IN THE TEMPLE.
HOW CAN YOU HELP?
HOW CAN AN ANCIENT TEMPLE AND A BUNCH OF MONKS STAND AGAINST MODERN MILITARY MIGHT?
ANCIENT DOES NOT MEAN WEAK! THE TEMPLE IS THE HOME OF CERTAIN ARTS THAT HAVE NEVER ESCAPED TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD...
TO UNDERSTAND COMBAT, ONE MUST APPROACH IT IN A VERY SIMPLE AND DIRECT MANNER.
FAREWELL, BRITT. I'LL BE IN TOUCH.

"Journey of a Thousand Miles"

STORY
MIKE BARON

ART/COVER
BRENT ANDERSON

COLOR
SUZANNE DECHNIK

LETTERING
PATRICK WILLIAMS

EDITOR
JOAN M. WEIS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
TONY CAPUTO

I AM HAYASHI KATO.
WELCOME TO HONG KONG. I AM ULYSSES CHOW. YOUR UNCLE SENT ME TO GREET YOU.
SHALL WE GET YOUR LUGGAGE? I HAVE A CAR WAITING.
HOW IS MY UNCLE?
HE IS SORELY PRESSED-- CREDITORS ARE CLOSING IN.
HE MUST MAKE SACRIFICES TO KEEP THEM AT BAY.
HAVE THERE BEEN CASUALTIES?
PLEASE, MR. KATO. BEIJING HAS EARS EVERYWHERE... LET US WAIT UNTIL WE REACH THE CAR.
MIND IF I RIDE UP FRONT WITH YOU?
PLEASE DO SO.
BL 369
WHY WOULD SPIES FROM CHINA FOLLOW YOU?
I AM A MEMBER OF THE DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT.
SO BEIJING THINKS MY UNCLE WAS INVOLVED.
YOUR UNCLE IS INVOLVED. DIDN'T HE TELL YOU THAT HE WAS HARBORING ONE OF THE STUDENT LEADERS IN THE TEMPLE?
NO... HE NEVER MENTIONED THAT.
YES! HE EXPECTS YOU TO GET HER OUT.

I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOUR EXPLOITS IN AMERICA! YOU ARE A GREAT WUSHU MASTER!
I TOO STUDY WUSHU.
OF COURSE YOU DO. WHERE ARE WE GOING?
WE GO TO THE QUEEN ANNE APARTMENTS, WHERE YOU WILL BE GIVEN PAPERS AND A PLAN TO ENTER THE MAINLAND.
FROM WHOM?
CARTER LIN AND HIS SISTER REDGRAVE. THEY BARELY ESCAPED THE CAPITAL AFTER THE CRACKDOWN...
OH! I DID NOT EXPECT THEM SO QUICKLY!
<GREETINGS, RUNNING DOGS OF IMPERIALIST PIGS...>*
<BEIJING BIDS YOU FAREWELL.
WHEN THEY FIND YOUR BROKEN BODIES, THEY WILL BLAME THE SPITTING COBRAS...>
* TRANSLATED FROM MANDARIN CHINESE.

I AM SORRY. I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D BE ON TO US SO SOON...
DON'T BE. THE HONORED REPRESENTATIVES FROM BEIJING ARE WILDLY OPTIMISTIC.
<THE TOOL IS A TOOL...>
<...OF FORMLESS FORM...>
<YOU'VE BEEN TOO LONG IN THE WEST, OLD MAN...>

WHUP
POP
POP
WAHKAAAAAA
OOOOOOOMPH

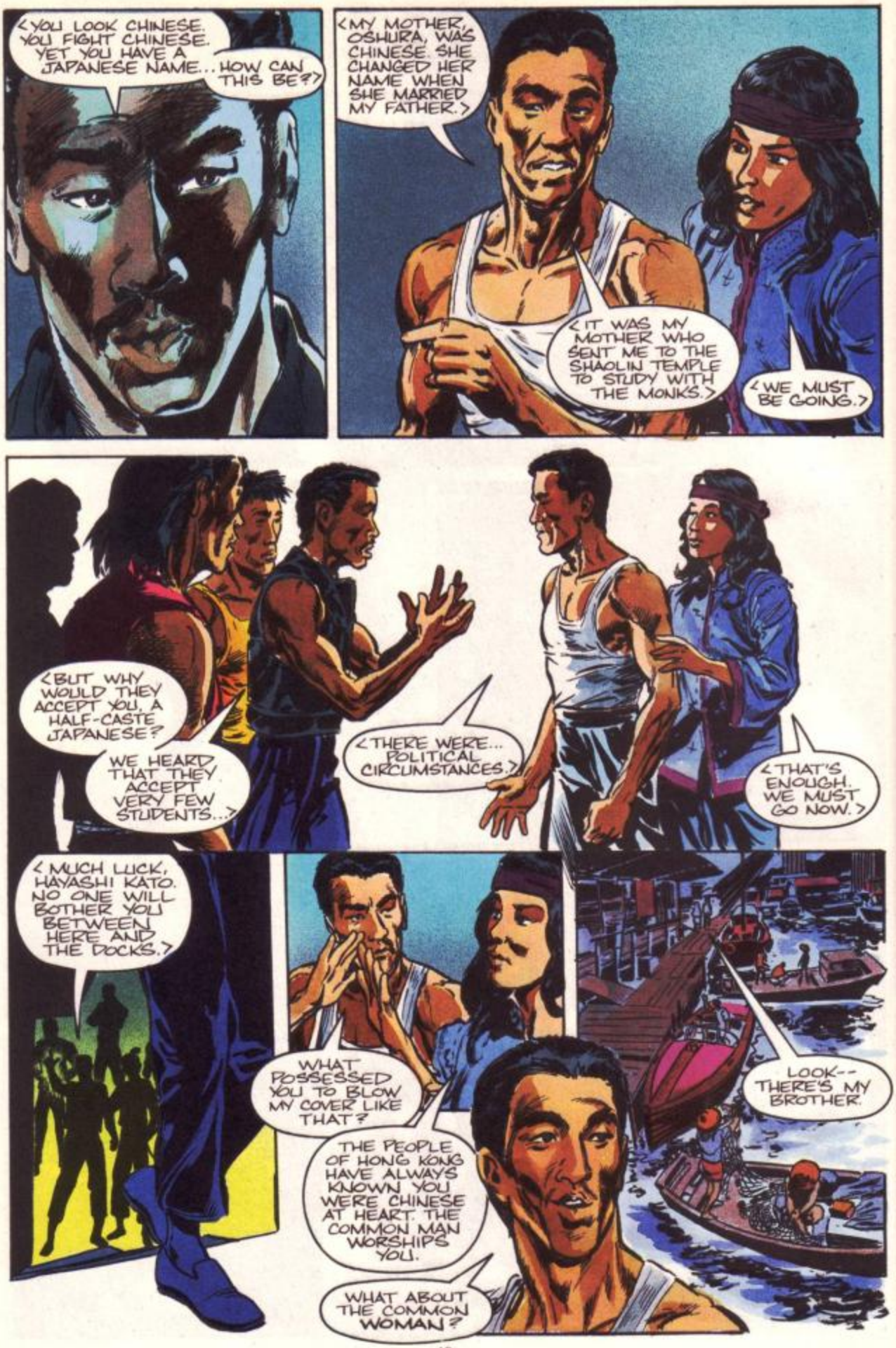
POK
WE'D BETTER GET MOVING. THIS PLACE IS NO LONGER SAFE.
QUICKLY! WE MUST NOTIFY REDGRAVE AND CARTER!
MY KUNG FU FAILED TO PUT HIM DOWN.
NO SHAME IN THAT--HE WAS A HIGHLY-TRAINED MARTIAL ARTIST.
YES, BUT... PERHAPS YOU COULD SHOW ME WHAT I DID WRONG...
IF WE HAVE TIME. I AM NOT HERE TO CONDUCT SEMINARS.
NOK
NOK
OF COURSE NOT.
WELCOME. I AM CARTER LIN AND THIS IS MY SISTER REDGRAVE.
HONG
I'M AFRAID WE'VE BROUGHT TROUBLE--AGENTS FROM BEIJING. WE MUST LEAVE AT ONCE.
WE ADMIRE YOUR FILMS VERY MUCH, HAYASHI KATO. I AM A STUDENT OF SHAOLIN HISTORY. I ESPECIALLY ADMIRE THE ACCURACY WITH WHICH YOU HAVE PORTRAYED THE TEMPLE.
THIS IS NOT A FAN CLUB.
THANK YOU, BUT I DELIBERATELY CHANGED MANY THINGS.

PLEASE FORGIVE REDGRAVE, MR. KATO. SHE REMAINS A GOOD SOCIALIST AT HEART AND MUST DENOUNCE CULT OF PERSONALITY WHEREVER SHE FINDS IT.
BE STILL, FOOL! DO YOU WISH TO ALERT THE WHOLE MOUNTAIN?
WE CAN TAKE THE TRAM INTO THE CITY-- FROM THERE WE MUST MAKE OUR WAY TO THE ABERDEEN DOCKS.
WE'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH SPITTING COBRA TERRITORY. THEY CONTROL THE DOCKS.
IS THAT A PROBLEM?
DANGER
IT COULD BE. WE'RE TOO WELL DRESSED THEY MAY TRY TO SHAKE US DOWN.
WE COULD WALLOW IN DIRT AND TEAR OUR CLOTHES.
:gasp: NOT THIS DRESS.
HE'S JOKING, REDGRAVE.
I'M NOT JOKING. I THINK WE SHOULD SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS. IF BEIJING STILL HAS THEIR NOSE ON OUR TRAIL, THEY'LL BE LOOKING FOR FOUR...
YOU DON'T KNOW THE WAY. I'LL GO WITH YOU.
TRY TURNING IT INSIDE OUT, AND RUB IT AGAINST THE WALL... SMEAR SOME DIRT ON YOUR FACE.
DON'T WORRY-- NO ONE WILL DISTURB YOU.
YOU MUST PROMISE NOT TO LOOK.

DON'T WORRY.
<HEY YOU!>
DON'T WORRY.
=gasp= THE SPITTING COBRAS!

<WHAT?>
<WE WANT A DONATION... AND MAYBE THE WOMAN...>
<BETTER GIVE US YOUR WALLET.>
<ARE YOU BLIND?! IT IS HAYASHI KATO WHO STANDS BEFORE YOU!>
<WHO'S MAN ENOUGH TO CHALLENGE HIM?>
<BULL! WHAT IS HAYASHI KATO DOING AROUND HERE AT NIGHT?
THERE ARE DOZENS OF KATO IMITATORS IN KOWLOON ALONE!
THIS IS NO KATO!>
<YEAH--SHOW US SOMETHING.
OR WE'LL SHOW YOU.>
<GO AHEAD--SHOW THEM.>
<SHOW THEM WHAT?>
<ANYTHING! SHOW THEM THE FORM YOU DID IN "FISTS OF RAGE.">
11

WHOOOOOOOP!
BIP.
BAP BAP
BAP
BAP
BAP
BAP
<I ONLY HIT HIM WITH SURFACE POWER OR HE WOULD BE DEAD.>
<IT IS KATO...
PLEASE FORGIVE US! WE DIDN'T KNOW WHO YOU WERE!?
<I FORGIVE YOU.>
<MASTER KATO, WE ARE HONORED THAT YOU GRACE OUR POOR NEIGHBORHOOD WITH YOUR PRESENCE.
SIR, I HAVE A QUESTION I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK YOU.>
<WHAT IS IT?>


〈YOU LOOK CHINESE. YOU FIGHT CHINESE. YET YOU HAVE A JAPANESE NAME... HOW CAN THIS BE?〉
〈MY MOTHER, OSHURA, WAS CHINESE. SHE CHANGED HER NAME WHEN SHE MARRIED MY FATHER.〉
〈IT WAS MY MOTHER WHO SENT ME TO THE SHAOLIN TEMPLE TO STUDY WITH THE MONKS.〉
〈WE MUST BE GOING.〉
〈BUT WHY WOULD THEY ACCEPT YOU, A HALF-CASTE JAPANESE?
WE HEARD THAT THEY ACCEPT VERY FEW STUDENTS...〉
〈THERE WERE... POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES.〉
〈THAT'S ENOUGH. WE MUST GO NOW.〉
〈MUCH LUCK, HAYASHI KATO. NO ONE WILL BOTHER YOU BETWEEN HERE AND THE DOCKS.〉
WHAT POSSESSED YOU TO BLOW MY COVER LIKE THAT?
THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN YOU WERE CHINESE AT HEART. THE COMMON MAN WORSHIPS YOU.
WHAT ABOUT THE COMMON WOMAN?
LOOK-- THERE'S MY BROTHER.

HURRY! WE MUST BLEND IN WITH THE DEPARTING FISHING FLEET.
IN THIS FANCY BOAT?
DON'T WORRY. WE TRANSFER TO A JUNK IN THE HARBOR-- IT WILL TAKE YOU DOWN THE COAST.
ARE WE ALL SNEAKING ONTO THE MAINLAND. TOGETHER?
NO. ONLY YOU AND ME.
REDGRAVE AND CARTER MUST REMAIN IN HONG KONG TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY.
WHAT ABOUT GUNS? CAN YOU GET SOME WEAPONS INTO THE MONASTERY?
NO GUNS. THE MONKS WOULD NEVER PERMIT IT.
BUT... HOW HAVE THEY MANAGED TO HOLD OUT AGAINST THE ARMY?
DON'T WORRY-- THE TEMPLE HAS WEAPONS BEIJING CANNOT IMAGINE...
THAT'S WHY THE GOVERNMENT IS DESPERATE TO DESTROY THEM.

WELCOME. WELCOME TO MY HUMBLE JUNK.
WE ARE HONORED TO BE OF ASSISTANCE.
THANK YOU.
LATER.
MR. KATO?
WHAT IS IT?
SO SORRY TO DISTURB YOU. YOU SAID PERHAPS YOU WOULD TEACH ME SOME KUNG FU...
VERY WELL. HIT ME.
HUH?
HIT ME.
HYAH!
AGAIN.
HAI-YAH!
YOU ARE TOO RIGID. TURN INTO A DOLL OF STRAW,--
--IT HAS NO EGO, IT THINKS OF NOTHING.
LET THE BODY AND LIMBS WORK THEMSELVES OUT--
--IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DISCIPLINE THEY HAVE UNDERGONE.

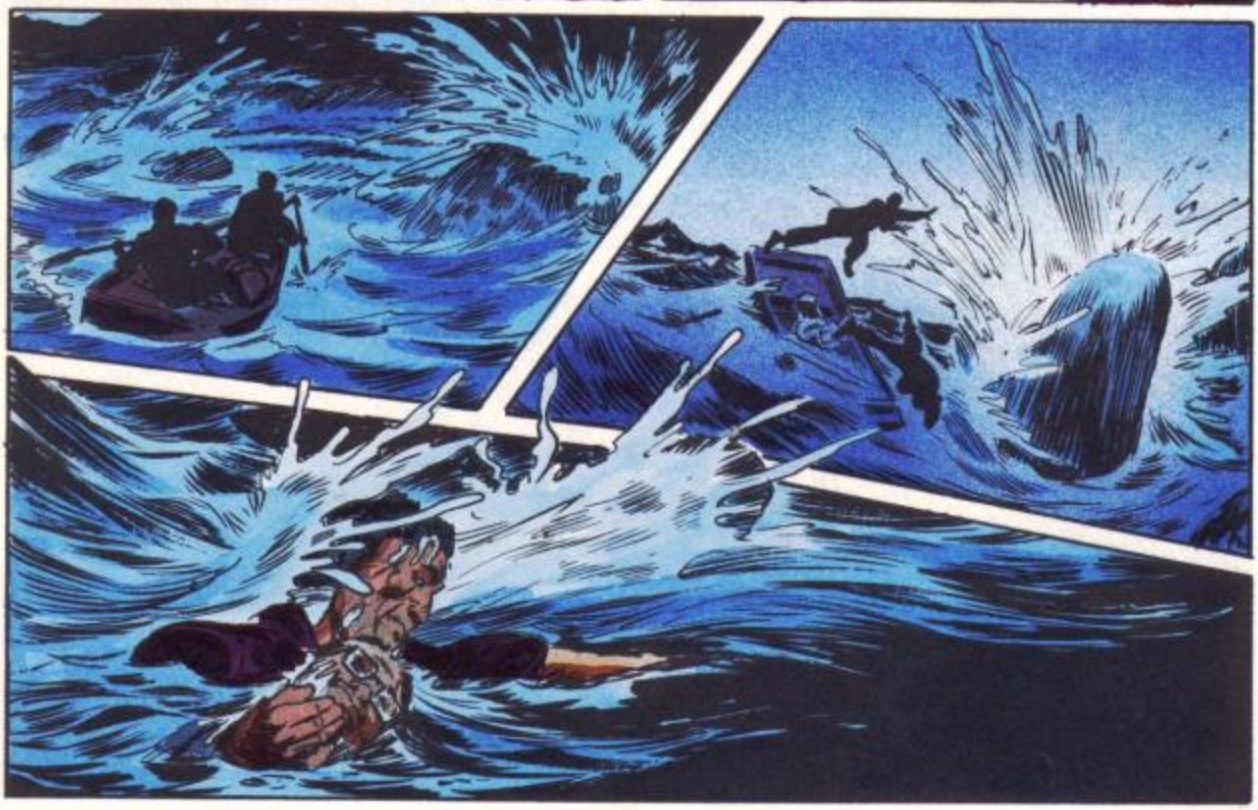
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THINK OF NOTHING?
NOTHINGNESS CANNOT BE DEFINED--THE SOFTEST THING CANNOT BE SNAPPED.
ULYSSES, WILL YOU EXCUSE US, PLEASE?
YES. THANK YOU FOR THE INSTRUCTION, MASTER KATO.
I SENSE AMBIVALENCE, HAYASHI KATO.
I HAVE NOT BEEN IN CHINA FOR A LONG TIME.
IS THAT IT? OR DO YOU FEAR YOUR WORLDLY WAYS WILL MEET WITH DISAPPROVAL?
THE HEAD ABBOTT ASKED ME TO COME. I DID NOT REQUEST IT.
I THINK YOU SHOW GREAT COURAGE. I HAVE HEARD THAT BEIJING RUNS IT'S OWN MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOL.
THIS IS TRUE. A FEW YEARS AGO, THE LEADERS REALIZED THEIR MISTAKE IN BANNING WUSHU AS A FORM OF RELIGION...
"BUT MOST SCHOOLS HAD SIMPLY GONE UNDERGROUND. A HIGH DEGREE OF SKILL DOES NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE GOOD CHARACTER."
I HAVE HEARD THAT ONE IN PARTICULAR USED TO BE SHAOLIN'S BEST.
"SOME OF THE GOVERNMENT FIGHTERS RIVAL SHAOLIN'S BEST."
AH... CAT.

YOU KNOW THIS CAT?
I WAS ONE OF HIS TEACHERS.
HE WAS AS DECEITFUL AS HE WAS TALENTED.
I'M NOT SURPRISED HE SERVES DENG XIAPING... BECAUSE OF HIM, I WAS FORCED TO LEAVE THE TEMPLE.
WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU'RE CERTAINLY NOT BASHFUL, ARE YOU?
THE TEMPLE CONTAINS MANY ANCIENT AND VALUABLE THINGS... CAT NG STOLE A SWORD AND MADE IT SEEM AS IF I HAD DONE IT.
HOW DO YOU KNOW HE STOLE IT?
I KNEW CAT.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
I'VE SEEN SOME OF YOUR MOVIES, AND NATURALLY I'M CURIOUS.
WHY DIDN'T YOU STAY AND FIGHT THIS INJUSTICE?
CAT HAD MANY SUPPORTERS. TO FIGHT WOULD HAVE TORN THE TEMPLE APART.
I COULD NOT HAVE RETURNED BEFORE NOW.
WE ARE APPROACHING THE HIDDEN COVE...

WE MUST CONSTANTLY SEARCH FOR NEW ENTRY WAYS TO AVOID THE SOLDIERS.
I WILL GUIDE YOU TO A MAN WHO WILL TAKE YOU TO THE HUNAN PROVINCE.

HAYASHI...
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

DON'T WORRY--
THE HERO ALWAYS RETURNS.



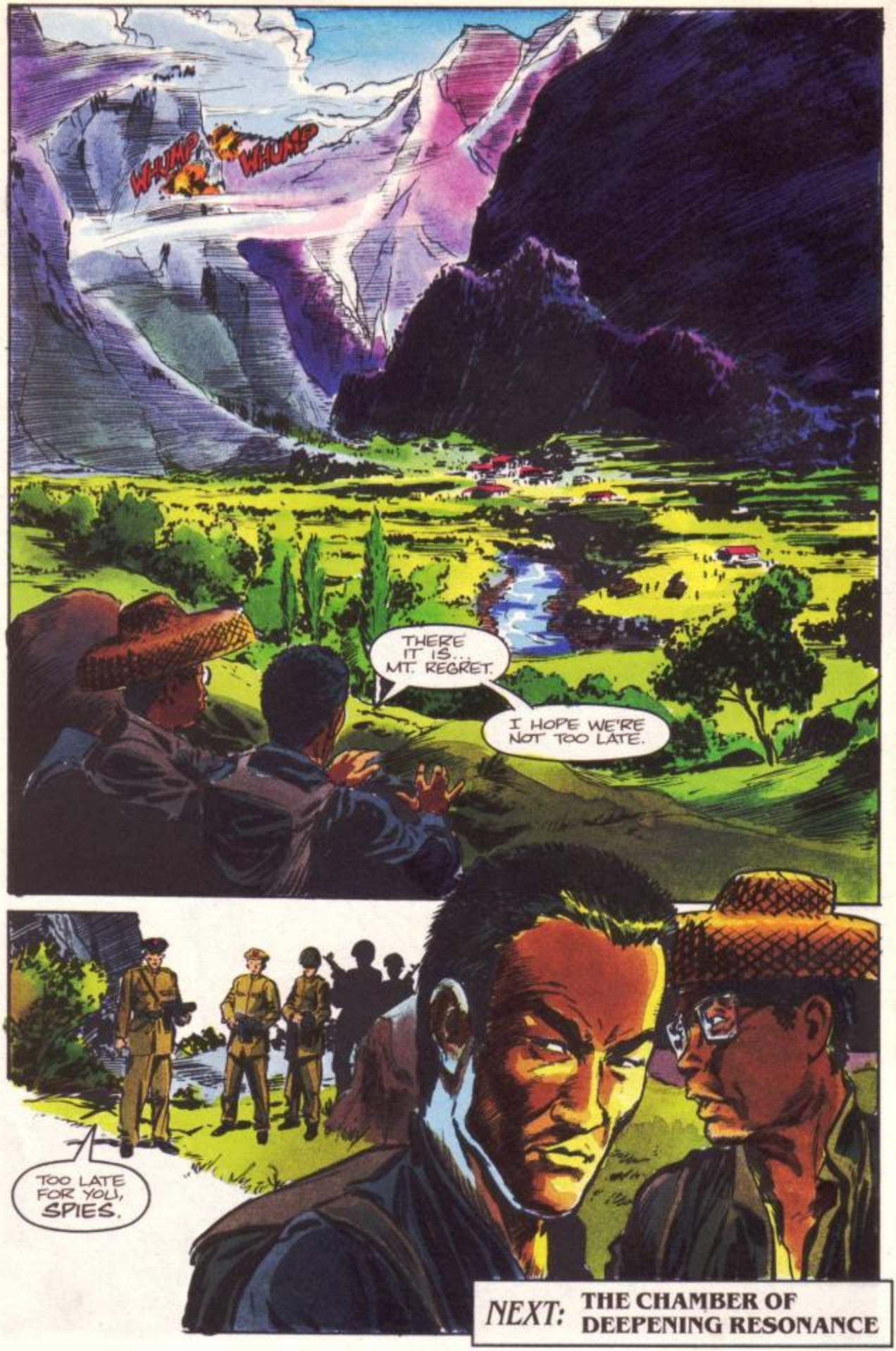
HAHGH! KOFF!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
Y-YES.. GASP WE MUST HURRY-- TIBERIUS IS WAITING.
THERE IS TIBERIUS.
BE CERTAIN.
TIBERIUS! IS THAT YOU?
COUSIN ULYSSES! I HAVE DRY CLOTHES FOR YOU. THEN WE MUST RIDE BICYCLES.
WHEW!
I WISH YOU HAD AN EXTRA HAT, COUSIN!

THIS IS AS FAR AS I TAKE YOU.
NOW YOU MUST WAIT FOR THE BOAT.
AFTER THE BOAT TRIP, KATO AND ULYSSES BOARD A TRUCK FILLED WITH LOCAL WORKERS.
WHAT DO YOU HAVE THERE, PING?
IT IS A NIGHTINGALE! I TOOK IT FROM ONE OF THE STUDENT ACTIVISTS--
--AFTER THE POLICE TOOK HIM AWAY...
WHEN I HIRE A WHORE,--
--I SHALL BITE OFF THE BIRD'S HEAD AND IT WILL GIVE ME GREAT POTENCY!
HA! HA! HA!
I'LL GIVE YOU 100 YEN FOR THAT BIRD.
NO. IT DIDN'T COST ME ANYTHING, AND I WON'T SELL IT.
VERY WELL... WILL YOU MAKE A WAGER?
WHAT KIND OF WAGER?

IF THE LOT OF YOU CAN THROW ME OFF THIS TRUCK, I'LL TROUBLE YOU NO MORE.
LOOK, YOU...I'VE BEEN THINKING OF THROWING YOU OFF SINCE YOU AND YOUR SNOB FRIEND GOT ON.
I THINK YOU'RE A PAIR OF CRIMINALS FROM A UNIVERSITY SOMEWHERE!
YOU MAY TRY,--
--BUT IF YOU FAIL, HE MUST GIVE ME THE NIGHTINGALE.
NO! IT'S MINE!
SHUT UP, YOU!
WHAT CHANCE DOES HE HAVE AGAINST ALL OF US?
I MYSELF WILL THROW HIM OFF THE TRUCK!
KATO, MAYBE WE SHOULD GET OFF THE TRUCK!
DON'T BE SILLY.
UNGH! UNGH!
HA HA HA
YOU MUST HAVE DEVELOPED THAT GRIP BY ABUSING YOURSELF.

DON'T STAND THERE GAPING!
HELP ME OR I'LL THROW THE REST OF YOU OFF THE TRUCK.
UNGH!
COME ON!
GETCHER BUTT OUTTA MY FACE!
I GOT HIM! CLEAR THE WAY!
SAY GOODBYE, PEEWEE, IT'S TIME TO GET OFF!
THE BIRD, PLEASE.
YES, SIR! CERTAINLY SIR!

THAT WAS VERY RASH OF YOU, MR. KATO, TO CHALLENGE THAT TRUCK FULL OF LABORERS.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
BUT I DESPISE THAT SUPERSTITIOUS ATTITUDE TOWARD NATURE.
I THANK YOU FOR THE HAT.
WE MUST BE GETTING CLOSE.
YES, I RECOGNIZE THE LANDSCAPE.
BE QUIET... I HEAR A VEHICLE. THERE MUST BE A ROAD NEARBY.
RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
A PERSONNEL CARRIER...
THEY MUST BE REINFORCEMENTS FOR THE ATTACK ON THE TEMPLE
RRRRRRRRR
WHU HUMP
SOUNDS LIKE ARTILLERY.
IT'S COMING FROM OVER THAT RIDGE.


WHUMP
WHUMP
THERE IT IS... MT. REGRET.
I HOPE WE'RE NOT TOO LATE.
TOO LATE FOR YOU, SPIES.
NEXT: THE CHAMBER OF DEEPENING RESONANCE

NEXT ISSUE:

Kato and Ulysses must escape the Chinese soldiers in time to save Sifu Ho and the Shaolin temple. But how can they defeat their captors?